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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 26 | Min 19 | Humidity 81% Generally cloudy sky with Light rain Sensex 70,514 | Nifty 21,182 | Gold 62,890 | Silver 76,000 | Dollar 83.33 | Euro 91.55 | GBP 105.35

Grim reality

CITY PAGE 3

City witnessing six deaths by suicide daily

Leftover blues

CITY PAGE 5

Storage space or dry waste collection centre?

First 3D-printed post office in country has no water supply, rest rooms or parking facility

POST 3D EFFECT

Post office at Cambridge Layout opened in August

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Halasuru, Cambridge Layout, Jogupalya and surrounding areas were very happy when Union minister Ashwini Vaishnav virtually inaugurated the 3D-printed post office at Cambridge Layout on August 18.

Their joy knew no bounds after the opening of the brand new post office because they used to struggle a lot to avail the services offered at the post office situated near Bazaar Street of Halasuru.

There are absolutely no complaints as far as the services offered at the 3D-printed post office, but basic amenities are not satisfactory.

The post office, spread over 1,100 square feet of prime land, was built using 3D concrete printing technology. It is billed as the first 3D-printed post office in the country but has no water supply.

The employees working at this post office have to depend on a hospital nearby for water. The management of the hospital is generous enough to supply water for the post office for the last three months.

Senior citizen at tap without water supply

> **"It is shocking to see this structure, constructed spending a lot of money, has no bore well facility"**
> — BK Chandran, social worker

"There is no water facility for the employees working here. They have made an ad hoc arrangement to have water from the adjacent hospital. The contractor has installed water pipes sans supply. It is quite shocking to see this structure, constructed with a huge amount, has no bore well facility," said BK Chandran, a social worker.

The Central Government and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities have been spending a lot of money to end open defecation. However, the security guard posted here at night has to attend nature's call on the road or walk up to a few hundred meters to utilise the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 »

WHY ACCESS IS KEY

Audit of 29 metro stations on Green Line to boost accessibility

Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

To address accessibility in 100-m radius of metro stations, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited has authorised a city group to conduct an audit of 29 stations on the Green Line.

The BMRCL has authorised the NGO, The Mobility Agenda Foundation to survey pedestrian safety, accessibility, and on/off street parking within 100-m radius of metro stations. In the pilot, the audit will be conducted of 29 stations within the Green Line.

The study will analyse road and traffic inventory, road safety including evaluation of traffic signages, pedestrian crossings, considerations for people with disabilities and presence of schools and hospitals within 100-m radius of metro stations; it shall audit facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, monitor shared mobility services, auto rickshaw stands and bus stops, EV charging/battery swapping stations, alongside taking stock of parking provisions in metro stations and public toilets.

The group has been authorised

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9»

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Cake zone Students from across the nation participated and showcased cake art in Indian Cake Exhibition at St Joseph's School ground

759 kids have died of pneumonia in 2022–23

Karnataka records 35,590 cases of childhood pneumonia in 2022–23 period; city doctors ask to be vigilant about recognising danger signs

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

While the pneumonia cases in China caused alarm, there has been a consistent increase in pneumonia fatalities among kids since last year. In fact, Karnataka has reported a staggering 35,590 cases of childhood pneumonia in 2022–23. Worse, 494 kids (1 to 12 months old) and 265 kids (between 1 year and 5 years of age) died of pneumonia in 2022–23. In the country, Uttar Pradesh reported 92,887 pneumonia cases among children, followed by Rajasthan with 82,091 and Madhya Pradesh with 39,948 cases. Karnataka stood fourth in the country.

Dr Sachin Kumar, Senior Consultant, Pulmonology and Critical Care Medicine, Sakra World Hospital, said, 'Pneumonia is common among children under 5, often following diarrheal diseases. The recent uptick in infant cases may result from various factors, including the absence of mandatory pneumococcal vaccination. Climate variations, pollution, and reduced adherence to covid-19 guidelines contribute to the increased incidence. Viral mutations, particularly in RSV and mycoplasma, are noted this year, with no specific vaccines available. To prevent future cases, prioritising international immunisation programmes for pneumococcal and influenza vaccines is crucial."

> **"Some of these cases are severe enough to necessitate admission to the hospital** –Dr Yogesh

Promoting hygiene practices, such as wearing masks in crowded areas and isolating infected individuals, is essential. Regular check-ups for children with allergies and asthma are advised. Recognising symptoms like high fever, breathlessness, refusal to eat, confusion, coughing, and a stuffy nose is crucial for seeking prompt medical attention, he added.

Experts say that parents need to be vigilant about recognising danger signs that may indicate underlying pneumonia in a child with a cough and cold.

Dr Yogesh Kumar Gupta, Consultant Paediatrician and Intensivist, Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta Road, said, "We encounter cases of pneumonia and wheeze-associated lower respiratory tract infections on a daily basis, with at least 4-5 cases of lower respiratory tract infections observed daily in the OPD. Some of these cases are severe enough to necessitate admission to the hospital and the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). So far, we have not witnessed any mortality in children admitted with pneumonia."

If they observe their child breathing rapidly, the chest wall moving rapidly up and down, and the child being lethargic with poor intake, they should promptly seek emergency medical attention nearby, he mentioned.

Furthermore, Dr Ilin Kinimi, Consultant - Paediatric Pulmonology and Sleep Medicine, Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road, explained that there has been an increasing trend of pneumonia in children, mostly caused by viral pneumonia rather than bacterial pneumonia. "Vaccinations are currently available only for pneumococcal bacteria and influenza, but there are no other vaccinations available. Parents should take their child to a doctor immediately if they have a fever, cough, difficulty breathing, or unusual rashes," he stressed.

Starry party on NYE

As the countdown begins towards a new year, The Oterra proudly presents New Year's Eve, 'Millionaire 2024'—a night of opulence and unmatched celebration.

Prepare to immerse yourself in sheer luxury and grandeur at our exquisite venue, the pinnacle of elegance, where you'll revel under the stars and dance the night away. Experience the city's most lavish New Year's event featuring the first-ever aerial acts in Bangalore, adding enchantment to our stellar entertainment lineup.

Savor the city's largest culinary spread paired with premium spirits, a feast for your senses. Little revelers are not forgotten, as we have a dedicated kids' party area for a night of joy for the entire family.

Join us as we count down to 2024 in style. This New Year, you're not just attending a party; you're part of a Millionaire celebration!

Highlights include DJ Rajiv (Bollywood Badshah), a fusion of Commercial and Bollywood Music, MJ Rakesh - The Mic Jockey (Prof. Ulfat Sultan), and international aerial dancers.

December 31, 2023; 08:00 PM - 01:00 AM
For enquiries and bookings, contact: 7829558881/2/3

4 THINGS TO DO

01 Silk suite

Visit the National Silk Expo, an exclusive exhibition and sale that features more than 1,50,000 varieties of sarees and dress materials, displaying the weaving traditions of India. You will find jute silks in vibrant colours, polished and raw tussars, maslin silk, tangail, linen sarees, and more. You can also get Banarasi silk, Rajasthani dabu print, **Where: Shilpa Kala Mantapa, 9th Cross, JP Nagar, 3rd Phase Bannerghatta Main Road When: December 16 to 25; 11 am to 9 pm**

02 Let's play

Don't miss the chance to attend a live, unscripted conversation with football icon Ole Gunnar Solskjaer as he visits India soon. He is expected to enthral Manchester United fans with his exclusive insights, untold stories, and anecdotes. This is your opportunity to share your passion with the legend himself. **Where: ITC Gardenia, Ashok Nagar; When: Today; 5 pm to 10 pm**

03 Shopping scenes

Explore a variety of goods made by artists at Indian Artisan Bazaar, the shopping carnival. The exhibition-cum-sale is a colourful event and features artefacts, toys, designer clothes, and household items by artisans from various parts of the nation. Entry is free. **Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath; When: until December 17; 11 am to 7 pm**

04 Cartoon network

IIC is back with its new showcase of cartoons, as it is organising an exhibition by award-winning Brazilian cartoonist Silvano Mello this month. Mello's works have been published in various international publications. He has been dedicated to graphic humour since 2007. **Where: Indian Cartoon Gallery; When: until December 23**

KAUSHIK JN

High alert

Police personnel conducting extra checks on all visitors to Vidhana Soudha, on Thursday

Not all's quite well in the family

6 people died by suicide in city daily last year; family problems cited as major reason

Ahna Prakash
c-ahna.prakash@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In 2022, six people died in Bengaluru by suicide every day. The city ranks second in India, when it comes to the number of suicide cases. According to the latest report by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Bengaluru recorded 2,313 suicides in a year, which includes 1,645 men and 668 women.

"Out of the mega cities, the four metropolitan cities — Delhi City (3,367), Bengaluru (2,313), Chennai (1,581), and Mumbai (1,501) have reported higher number of suicides. These four cities together have reported almost 33.3% of the total suicides reported from 53 mega cities," says the report.

Bengaluru contributes to 8.8 percent of the total number of suicides in India.

The data reveals that most people committed suicide due to family problems. A total of 934 people committed suicide due to family problems including 586 men and 348 females. Following that is people dying by suicides due to illness, a total of 503 people killed themselves due to illness including 343 men and 160 females.

Sheetal Lakhani, clinical psychologist, says that one could speculate about the reasons for the family conflicts, such as increased stress levels in cities due to increased working hours, or even increasing use of technology and reduced quality time being spent with family.

"There is no single reason or explanation for this. Family reasons are the highest, as per data, which may suggest that individuals in the city may be highly affected by the state of their relationships with family members. Family conflicts may also include intimate partner violence which is a leading cause of death by suicide and needs to be looked into. Family response to mental health issues and family stigma about mental health may be a peripheral factor adding to suicide rates. Lack of awareness and positive attitude (sometimes understandably) about help available for suicide and mental health may be adding to the problem. Suicide is preventable but the prevention needs to be early and at a large scale community level to reduce stigma," she says.

> **"Lack of awareness and positive attitude about help available for suicide and mental health may be adding to the problem**
> – Sheetal Lakhani, clinical psychologist

She adds that additionally, in cultures like ours, where family values are ingrained and family is considered the source of perpetual social support, individuals may be deeply affected by familial issues.

Familial trouble

"There is some information that familial problems relating to dowry, divorce, infertility, extramarital affairs, and inability to get married may affect many women especially in the Indian cities and villages. There may be different causes for men and women, and in cities and in villages. However, the common factor is an inability to access help," adds Sheetal.

Apart from that, 121 people took their lives due to career problems, 34 due to poverty, 158 due to love affairs and 145 people died due to drug and alcohol abuse. The city didn't see any case of mass suicide in the year 2022.

CRIME FILES

Woman killed in scooter-bus collision

A woman was killed and two others, including an 18-month-old infant, were injured when a Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) bus collided with a two-wheeler on the Madiwala Flyover at the Silk Board junction. A case has been filed with the Madiwala Traffic Police Station.

Seema, 21, was identified as deceased. Ganvi, the victim's 18-month-old son, and the victim's husband, Gurumurthy, escaped with a few bruises.

The accident happened at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, when the couple and the baby were on their way to catch a Pro-Kabaddi tournament. The police are investigating the exact cause of the collision, however the injured Gurumurthy had said that the BMTC driver was careless, which resulted in Seema's death.

It seems probable that the BMTC driver attempted to take the left lane of the road and failed to detect the two-wheeler approaching from behind and collided with it, killing Seema on the spot. Seema's body has been transferred to St John's Hospital for post-mortem examination, and after the formalities are completed, the body will be returned to the family. The BMTC bus driver and conductor fled the scene of the accident and the police are now investigating the case. —BMB

NCPCR notice over student suicides

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has sent a notice to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) and District Magistrate (DM) of Bengaluru, on Tuesday, to investigate the tragic student suicides at PES University. It has mandated that a report be submitted within seven days.

Though two suicides were reported at PES University, that of Aditya Prabhu on July 17, and Surya M Achar on October 27, the university has not conducted any investigation so far.

The notice was forwarded to the DC and DM offices, requesting that they investigate the issue and share a report indicating the cause of such suicides, as well as other pertinent documentation, within seven days of receiving the letter. —BMB

All in a day's work: 3 phones snatched at bus stop

In less than 24 hours, three students became victims of phone snatchings at a bus stop in Hebbal, Outer Ring Road, on Wednesday at different times of the day.

"My phone was snatched at 7:40 am while I was waiting for a bus to my college. I was standing near the bus stop and suddenly someone came on a bike and snatched my mobile phone from my pocket," one of the victims told BM.

The person later went to register a complaint at Amruthahalli police station.

The victim met two other people there who had also lost their phone to snatchers at the bus stop on the same day.

"In one day, three people are filing an FIR related to theft at a particular bus stop. And this when there is no CCTV camera at that spot," said the victim.

He added that he is a frequent commuter and often travels on that route but has never seen police patrolling.

DCP North East division told BM that these days police have been recording several cases of phone snatching.

"Earlier cases were not being reported, but now complaints are being filed and we are looking into it. There is daily police patrolling in the area and there might be a chance that the students would not have seen a Hoysala pass by the road when they were there. We have ensured that police are present on all prime locations and every area is being patrolled regularly," he said. —Ahna Prakash

Black or white? Meeting to decide road upgrade

DKS reveals plans for AI in traffic and crime control, Brand Bengaluru advancement, and protective measures for government assets

| Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @sridharvMirror

The debate over white-topping roads remains contentious in the city, with parties divided on whether to choose white-topped or black-topped roads. Recently, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) announced that it will soon call tenders for the third phase of white-topped roads.

On Thursday, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar stated that he would soon convene a meeting of legislators from Bengaluru to discuss the white-topping of roads in the city. Responding to legislator H S Gopinath's query during the Question Hour in the Legislative Council, he said, "There are 1.14 crore vehicles in Bengaluru. Over 1300 two-wheelers and 490 cars are registered every day in Bengaluru. Heavy traffic movement is resulting in potholed roads; white-topping of roads will solve this problem as it lasts 25-40 years."

DKS said, "There is an allocation of Rs 1,000 crores for white-topping.

Bangalore Mirror
A white-topped road was fixed after it caved in near Adugodi signal raising damning questions on quality of work
WHITE LIES BENEATH
A kilometre of white-topped road costs Rs 10 cr

BM's report on November 14 about the poor quality of white-topped roads in the city

There is a demand for white-topping of smaller roads as well. I will soon call for a meeting of the legislators to understand the need for white-topping in different areas of Bengaluru," he noted. Meanwhile, DKS mentioned that the menace of digging for cable laying has increased in Bengaluru, damaging roads. Hence, white-topping needs to be taken up systematically.

"The government has been releasing funds for the BBMP, but it needs to generate more revenue and reduce dependency on the government. We are looking at increasing taxes to generate more revenues and strengthen the finances of the BBMP. I welcome suggestions on this. We need to work together to protect Bengaluru's self-respect and reputation," he added.

AI to curb crime

DKS said, "When I was the Urban Development Minister, the population of Bengaluru was 60 lakh and today it is 1.4 crore. Providing drinking water and disposing of waste for such a large population is always a challenge. We are studying solid waste management models in various cities such as Delhi and Hyderabad, and we will be visiting Indore too. We are taking suggestions from leaders of all parties and the public."

Over 70,000 suggestions have been collected for Brand Bengaluru. Several plans are afoot for Brand Bengaluru under health, drinking water, technology, environment, etc. The responsibility of evaluating

(File Photo) The stretch from KR Circle to Freedom Park on Seshadri Road undergoing white topping

Brand Bengaluru suggestions has been given to various organisations. Of the total technology export revenues in the country, 39 per cent comes from Bengaluru, and that revenue is helping the development of villages. Hence, Bengaluru needs more attention. Bengaluru's traffic is growing. When Hebbal flyover was built, there was no airport at Devanahalli. With North Bengaluru growing rapidly, there is a traffic issue.

"We have discussed with 9 institutions to resolve Bengaluru's traffic woes. I had a meeting yesterday too. We are planning to use technology such as artificial intelligence to manage traffic and control crime. We are also working with the Home Department to prevent crime. Traffic on five arterial roads is very high and requires a long-term plan," DKS said.

Separate division to protect government assets

In response to MLC Marithibbe Gowda's observation that Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) is losing most of its cases to private individuals in the Supreme Court, DKS said, "I agree with his observations. It is a big mafia; there is no accountability. Though the government had appointed advocates to fight for the BDA, 90 per cent of the cases were lost. Minister HK Patil has also had discussions with advocates from the State. We have a meeting with advocates of BDA and BBMP; we will take stock of the performance and win percentages of each advocate and evaluate their plan of action. We will fix responsibilities for government advocates."

City lake suffers another fish fatality

Doddabommasandra Lake in North Bengaluru has experienced a fish kill, resulting in a foul stench permeating the lake premises. Concerned residents and regular walkers are urging the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to promptly remove the dead fish from the water body and take measures to prevent future incidents of fish kills in the lake.

"This is the first time in 15-20 years that I have noticed such a fish kill in the lake. The lake is now masked by a stench. BBMP officials have now shown up and are taking measures to ensure required oxygen levels in the water body, but this should have been done before the fish kill took place," said a regular walker of the lake.

Raghavendra Pachhapur, a lake activist, noted that the city has witnessed 19 episodes of fish kill this year while the count stood at 16 last year. "The BBMP lakes department should stop denying the fish kills and must accept it as a challenge," he said, adding that it must also work with citizens, lake groups, and environmentalists to solve the issue in collaboration with the stormwater drains (SWD) department, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), and the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB).

"We (citizens) need an effective grievance redressal system at BWSSB, which can help us identify the engineer responsible and the contact number for complaints on sewage entering lakes. The present helpline 1916 does not entertain any complaints regarding sewage entering lakes," he said, adding that BWSSB officers should be sensitive to pollution at lakes and respond to a complaint regarding sewage entering lakes within a day or two, and not beyond. "Educating BBMP lake engineers and community (lake groups) on water quality parameters, which are now available on the KSPCB website, is a good tool for monitoring lake water quality. They should work together in coordination to achieve zero fish kill at Bengaluru lakes," he explained.

Further, he noted that BBMP should come up with a plantation of shrubs within the constructed wetland that can help reduce nutrient levels within the water and also provide a habitat for different wading and water birds at the lake.

— BMB

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Risky route
Horamavu

The back-breaking and accidents-causing potholed road at Divya Unnathi Circle in Horamavu Agara poses a significant risk to motorists and pedestrians alike.

Dumping disturbance
Whitefield

Roadside garbage dumping along Nallurahalli, Whitefield Road, close to Brigade IRV Centre, urgently requires intervention from BBMP to address the issue and maintain cleanliness in the area.

Urgent tidying
Brunton Road

The uncleared mess on Brunton Road Cross requires prompt attention and resolution for the overall cleanliness of the area.

Driving recklessly? Your boss might soon know!

Ahna Prakash
c-ahna.prakash@timegroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Traffic police are now collecting employee IDs of traffic violators and sending complaints to their companies. In a new method to curb traffic violations near Graphite India Junction, the police are noting down the employee ID number and the name of the person driving on the wrong side and informing their employers.

"There have been multiple enforcement drives in the particular junction for many years, but nothing seemed to have worked out as of now. It's a three-way junction, where there is a lot of wrong-side driving, and despite catching and fining violators, it still seems to happen frequently. The area has also become a spot for traffic accidents," says Clement Jayakumar, General Secretary of Mahadevapura Task Force-Mobility.

He adds that there is a notion that most of the traffic violators are gig workers who are in a hurry to deliver food; however, traffic police analysis has shown that many are IT employees.

"So now the police are jotting down the person's name and checking their IDs, and hope this helps reduce congestion and accidents.

Road violations in the city persist despite endless enforcements

Earlier, the traffic police used to stand at the junction for long hours, and still, people would find a way to violate, but now this new idea might work," he told BM.

Name and shame: Bangalore Traffic Police's unique approach to combat wrong side driving

He also said that last month, violator's vehicles were seized, FIRs were filed, and the court had to issue orders, but despite that, the increasing violations on the junction don't seem to stop.

The residents have also asked the police to install AI cameras that can generate automatic challans.

This step by the traffic police has received a mixed reaction on social media. While some say that naming and shaming the employees will knock some sense into people to drive safely, others say that this is just an extra burden for the cops and companies.

Some residents also compared it to the initiatives taken by the police in other cities. "In Hyderabad, they used to inform the company that their employee was caught drunk and driving and spent many days in jail. And many got fired due to this. In Hyderabad, people fear getting drunk and driving due to the police informing the company," tweeted a netizen.

Dry waste kiosk turns godown for vendors

Once thriving, Malleswaram kiosk now defunct and with no one to collect waste, residents and shop owners await recycling solutions

ALL KINDS OF
DRY WASTE IS COLLECTED HERE
ಒಣತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ಸಂಗ್ರಹ ಕೇಂದ್ರ DRY WASTE COLLECTED
TIMINGS ALL 7 DAYS MORNING 8.00AM TO EVINING 9.00PM
SMART SWACHH MALLESWARAM
Stranded dry waste kiosk on 8th Cross, Malleswaram

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities and elected representatives have been striving hard to mitigate garbage woes in commercial and residential areas in the city. The authorities have joined hands with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and residents' welfare associations (RWAs) to manage garbage issues. The BBMP started dry waste collection kiosks at some locations in the city. The dry waste collection kiosk situated near 8th Cross, Malleswaram is one among them. The objective is good but unfortunately, like any other initiatives, the dry waste collection kiosk has become defunct.

The BBMP constructed the dry waste collection kiosk a few years ago to facilitate nearby shops and business establishments and residents to deposit the dry waste here as per their convenience between 7 am and 9 pm. However, the dry waste collection kiosk has become a storage place for a few street vendors.

> **"It was helpful to those who depended on it for livelihood and the shop owners to hand over dry waste during the day time**
> – Shop owner

"There is no one to collect dry waste. It has become defunct for the last few months. A few street vendors are using it as a storage place to keep their goods," said a street vendor on the condition of anonymity.

Expressing disgust over the defunct dry waste collection kiosk, a few shop owners said the dry waste collection kiosk was very useful for them when it was functioning. "It was very convenient for us to hand over dry waste, especially packaging material, at the dry waste collection kiosk. Now, we have to wait till a dry waste collection vehicle comes to this area," said Sampath Raj, a shop owner.

Expressing a similar opinion, a shop owner, requesting anonymity, has said the dry waste collection kiosk used to employ a few people when it was functioning. "It was helpful to those who depended on it for livelihood and the shop owners to hand over dry waste during the day time. I want the BBMP authorities to consider restoring the dry waste collection kiosk as early as possible," said the shop owner.

Demanding the authorities not only to restore the dry waste collection kiosk but also open similar ones at other locations, Rekha Chari of Malleswaram Swabhimana Initiative, said that the dry waste collection kiosk was very useful for the residents and shop owners to hand over the dry waste at their convenient time. "I want the authorities concerned to open dry waste collection kiosks at different locations where those are required to mitigate dry waste problems," said Rekha Chari.

Will the BBMP authorities restore the dry waste collection kiosk? Residents and shop owners have to wait and watch.

Shakthi scheme: '₹1,669.45 crore disbursed to RTCs'

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

During the winter session of the Assembly held in Belagavi, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy responded to a query regarding the reimbursement made to road transport corporations (RTCs) for the Shakthi scheme. He stated that Rs 1,669.45 crore has been reimbursed so far. The Shakthi scheme, one among the five guarantees promised by the Congress government, reached a milestone with more than 100 crore women having used the service on November 23, allowing free bus travel for women.

The Minister noted that from June to November, Rs 1,66,945 lakh has been disbursed to RTCs. Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) received Rs 62,511.66 lakh, Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) received Rs 29,465.09 lakh, North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) received Rs 41,746.46 lakh, and Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC) received Rs 33,221.78 lakh. The reimbursement has been made according to the number of zero tickets issued to women passengers who have used the bus services until November this year. From June to November, RTCs issued tickets worth Rs 2,518.96 crore, indicating that the corporations are yet to be fully reimbursed.

It is noteworthy that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had allocated Rs 2,800 crore in the current financial year's state budget. Data from RTCs show that the total value of tickets provided to women passengers from June 11 to December 13 stands at Rs 2,720.16 crore, with 113,86,13,318 women using the service.

The minister also noted that the deployment of smart cards, originally announced to be provided three months after the commencement of the scheme, has experienced delays as the government is evaluating their feasibility, especially within city limits (services provided by the BMTC). The government had earlier stated that women wishing to avail of the scheme were required to apply for a smart card through an official portal and provide a valid government identity card as proof of address.

On November 23, the Shakthi scheme crossed the milestone of 100 crore women using the service

Tracks of trust

Around 1,198 route km of railway lines on South Western Railways region to integrate Kavach; this system supports locomotive pilot by automatically applying brakes

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Following a surge in railway accidents claiming numerous lives, the 'Kavach' system is being implemented within the jurisdiction of South Western Railways to prevent such incidents.

According to the Union Minister for Railways, Communications, Electronics, and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, approximately 1,198 route kilometre (RKM) of railway lines in the South Western Railways (SWR) region will integrate the Kavach system. Describing Kavach as an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system, the minister highlighted its high technological intensity, requiring the highest safety certification. Kavach supports the locomotive pilot by automatically applying brakes when the pilot fails to do so, ensuring safe train operations, especially during adverse weather conditions.

The initial field trials on passenger trains commenced in February 2016

"The initial field trials on passenger trains commenced in February 2016. After gaining experience and an independent safety assessment by a third party, three firms were approved in 2018–19 for the supply of Kavach. Subsequently, Kavach was adopted as a national ATP system in July 2020," the minister said in Parliament on Wednesday as a response to a question by Bengaluru Central MP, PC Mohan.

He further added that Kavach has been deployed on 1,465 RKM and 139 locomotives on the South Central Railway, a portion of which passes through the state of Karnataka.

The Minister also said, "Kavach tenders have been awarded for the Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah corridors, covering approximately 3,000 RKM. Indian Railways has initiated preparatory work, including a survey, a detailed project report (DPR), and the preparation of a detailed estimate for another 6,000 RKM, a section of which passes through Karnataka. Kavach implementation involves the installation of Station Kavach at each station, RFID tags throughout the track length, and the provision of Loco Kavach on each locomotive running on the Indian Railway. It necessitates a communication backbone with tower installations throughout the section and the laying of optical fibre."

Efforts are underway to develop additional Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to enhance capacity and scale up Kavach implementation, with three OEMs currently approved for Kavach. Meanwhile, railway officials stressed that Kavach, an indigenously developed ATP system developed by the Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) in collaboration with the Indian industry, marks a significant advancement in railway safety.

> **"Railways has initiated preparatory work, including estimate for 6,000 RKM, a section of which passes through K'taka** –Ashwini Vaishnaw

It prevents trains from passing signals at danger (red) and averts collisions, enhancing overall railway safety.

"Kavach's key features include preventing Signal Passing at Danger (SPAD), continuous updates of Movement Authority with signal aspects displayed in the Driver Machine Interface (DMI)/Loco Pilot's operation-cum-indication Panel (LPOCIP), automatic braking to prevent speeding, auto whistling near Level Crossing Gates, and preventing collisions between two locomotives equipped with the Kavach system. Additionally, Kavach facilitates sending SOS messages during emergencies and enables centralised live monitoring of train movements through the Network Monitor System," added an official.

'Cancel dual policy of collecting royalty'

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Federation of Karnataka Quarry and Stone Crushers Owners' Associations on Thursday appealed to the state government not to go ahead with its one-time settlement (OTS) plan to collect the arrears of royalty. It said that the quarry owners and stone crushers would be compelled to go on indefinite agitation if the state government failed to meet their demands.

It may be recalled that Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said on Tuesday in the Assembly session being held in Belagavi that the Rs 6,000 crore penalties imposed on illegal quarries and stone crushers are yet to be collected by the state government. Gowda was replying to MLC YA Narayanaswamy on behalf of Geology Minister SS Mallikarjun.

Meanwhile, the owners of quarries and stone crushers said that they are not sure what has led Krishna Byre Gowda to come to a conclusion on the penalty imposed on illegal stone quarrying and stone crushers.

"I do not know how the state government has fixed the penalty at Rs 6,000 crore. Many of the quarry owners in North Karnataka are finding it tough to maintain the quarries. It will be a death knell for them if the state government goes ahead with its plan of implementing OTS to collect the penalty amount," said Dr Ravindra Shetty Bhajagoli, president, Federation of Karnataka Quarry and Stone Crushers Owners' Associations.

He said the quarry and stone crushing unit owners would prefer to pay the penalty as per the norms.

Federation of Karnataka Quarry and Stone Crushers Owners' Associations vice president Kiran Raj Jain told BM that quarry and stone crusher owners demand the government abolish the dual policy of collecting royalty from them as well as the contractors engaged in construction work. "There were no issues until 2014 as far as the royalty was concerned. After introducing m-sand, the authorities have created problems for quarry and stone crusher owners," said Jain.

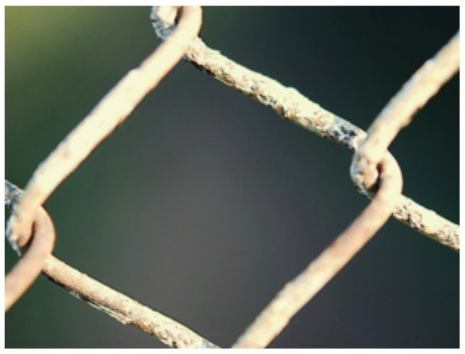
Forest dept breaks open steel barricade initiative

| Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) has scrapped the steel rope barricade project, an economical alternative to rail barricades to keep jumbos out of the farmlands. The steel rope barricades were installed on a pilot basis across 1.5 km in Bandipur Tiger Reserve and 4.5 km in Nagarhole Tiger Reserve last year.

The department then roped in a team of researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to evaluate the design and strength of the steel rope barricades. The IISc team also visited the Bandipur site last year to take stock of the situation.

However, KFD officials say the project has been cancelled as modifications suggested by the IISc team were complicated and led to a surge in the overall cost of the project.


KFD had come up with this alternative after trying elephant-proof trenches, and more

"IISc researchers conducted the study, and they found that the barricade was not strong enough in its original shape and form. While some modifications were suggested, we realised that incorporating them would make the design cumbersome, and the cost of the project would also go up. Thus, we have decided to scrap the project and go with rail barricades," said a senior KFD official.

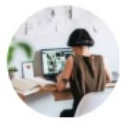
Researchers instrumented the system and tried to calibrate what kind of forces are generated when the jumbos put pressure on the steel ropes. They also analysed the strength of the system and looked into ways to strengthen it without going overboard.

KFD had come up with this alternative after trying elephant-proof trenches, solar power tentacles, solar fences, and railway barricades to keep the jumbos out of the farmlands. The steel rope barricades were also found to be more affordable compared to the rail barricades. While the rail barricade costs the department roughly Rs 1.3 to Rs 1.5 crore per kilometre, the steel rope barricade is only around Rs 60 lakh per kilometre.

According to Bandipur Tiger Reserve director Ramesh Kumar, rail barricades are being installed in high-conflict areas around the tiger reserve since the steel rope barricade plan has been dropped.

"Rail barricades have been proven to be nearly 95% effective in keeping elephants inside the forest area. We installed rail barricades in high-conflict areas outside elephant-proof trenches to improve the effectiveness of the barriers. Out of the total requirement of 140 km of rail barriers, we currently have 64 km installed. In the coming year, 26 km will be added. Medium conflict zones are being safeguarded by elephant-proof trenches and solar tentacles or fences," said Kumar.

HEALTH TIP: Almonds, walnuts are good add-ons to your main breakfast of fruit, porridge or upma



Position your chair at a distance from your desk, which ensures your arms are parallel to your spine

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PARENTS, THINK BEFORE YOU DRINK

Drinking during holidays and special occasions could affect how you parent your kids

How much alcohol do you typically drink in a week? A month? A year? Did your answer take into account how much you drink on New Year's Eve? On Christmas? During the World Cup?

When researchers compare how much alcohol is sold to how much people say they drink, alcohol consumption is underestimated by anywhere from 30% in the US to 80% in Australia.

Special occasions such as holidays, weddings or major sporting events make up much of that difference. How much a person drinks at a special event can vary quite a bit, adding an extra four drinks per week for men and three drinks per week for women, and people usually don't include these splurges in their tallies.

My research team studies alcohol use and its effects on parenting, with an ultimate goal to identify strategies that support positive parenting. Particularly in the festive holiday season – filled with gatherings where drinking is commonplace – understanding how special-occasion drinking affects how parents treat their children could help people change their routines in ways that make these occasions more enjoyable for everyone.

Alcohol's effects on social problems

It's not news that alcohol is related to many social problems: violence, traffic crashes, child abuse and neglect. Alcohol can enable bad behaviour during special occasions. Incidents of drunken driving are highest after New Year's Eve, for instance.

Alcohol use by men on days of major sporting events is related to more violence toward their families. However, because this relationship has been primarily studied among men, we don't know if it is the same for women. Women's drinking has increased over the past several decades, making this an important topic to understand.

Drinking while parenting can cause lax supervision of children or more harsh parenting practices. In our recent study, my colleagues and I wanted to see if a parent's alcohol use on two special occasions was related to the use of aggressive discipline – whether physical punishment like spanking, or psychological aggression like yelling and name-calling.

As part of a larger study, we focused on two special occasions where drinking might differ from a typical day: Super Bowl Sunday and Valentine's Day. What we found surprised us.

Drinking more on special days

In February 2021, we asked 307 parents to take three brief daily surveys for 14 days. We pushed a text message to parents' phones at 10 a.m., 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. that asked questions about whether they had used specific discipline strategies since the last survey.

On the seventh and 14th day, the survey included questions about whether parents drank alcohol during the past week. If they did, we asked them to tell us on which days, and during what time frames. We matched the days and times they drank with parenting behaviors they'd previously reported. Importantly, 93% of parents in our study were mothers.

A higher percentage of parents drank at some point on Valentine's Day (23.7%) and Super Bowl Sunday (16.9%) than on non-special occasion days during the study (14.7%).

Drinking alcohol during the Super Bowl was related to a 2.5 times higher odds of using aggressive discipline. However, drinking on Valentine's Day was related to lower odds of using aggressive discipline.

So special-event drinking did affect parenting behaviour – but in different ways depending on the event.

When drinking while watching a fairly violent sport, such as football, parents could be "copycatting" aggressive behavior they see on the screen. Researchers have suggested this link for men's behaviour toward their families. With women now making up 46% of the Super Bowl audience, my colleagues and I suggest there might be a similar relationship for them. When children appear disruptive or are playing in the same room, dads and moms may be quicker to yell instead of redirecting the behaviour without resorting to aggression.

Valentine's Day is different. Although more parents reported drinking on Valentine's Day than on Super Bowl Sunday, we didn't see the same increase in aggressive parenting. Valentine's Day celebrates romance and love. Its norms are markedly different from the Super Bowl, leading to a more relaxed parenting style. Drinking may be more likely to occur at a restaurant with a nice dinner that may or may not include children. For couples who leave their children at home, the holiday provides respite from parenting and focuses attention on other activities.

Celebrating while still parenting with care

Our results suggest parents may want to remember that drinking at special events like holiday parties or family gatherings may not only be different than their regular pattern of alcohol consumption, but also may influence how they interact with their children both during the event and even the next day.

What can moms and dads do to reduce harsh parenting during special occasions when they choose to drink?

Parents can plan ahead and choose a "designated parent" who does not drink and takes the lead on supervising the children. This could be one or multiple people. Drinking nonalcoholic mocktails or light beers to reduce the alcohol content can bring drinking more in line with a regular day.

Hiring a babysitter during the event, planning a playdate or bringing alternative activities to keep children engaged might lessen everyone's stress.

For an event like the Super Bowl, having activities supervised in another room, such as watching a child-friendly movie, might reduce problems.

Even special occasions as simple as a summer barbecue with friends or family could change how you parent, especially for those who drink infrequently. With so many adults around, it's easy to assume another adult is watching the kids when no one actually is. Putting a plan in place around special events where parents will be drinking may reduce possible harm to your children.

(By Bridget Freisthler, The Ohio State University, The Conversation)

All you need to know about...

Post-meal insulin surge

Not bad for health?
In a new study, US researchers have challenged previously held a notion that a spike in insulin levels after meals is bad for health.

What was believed so far
So far it has been believed that the insulin surge, especially after eating carbs, promotes weight gain and contributes to insulin resistance. This occurs when the body's cells don't respond well to insulin, making it harder to control blood sugar levels and increasing the risk of Type 2 diabetes.

Contrary finding
However, researchers at Sinai Health found on the contrary that it could be an indicator of good health to come. The science is just not conclusive enough to support this notion.

Model of obesity
Most studies on this topic were either conducted over a short period of time or were based on insulin measurements in isolation that are inadequate and can be misleading, said Dr. Ravi Retnakaran, Clinician-Scientist at the Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute, part of Sinai Health.
"Our findings do not support the carbohydrate-insulin model of obesity," said Dr. Retnakaran.

Adjustment for glucose
"We observed a robust post-challenge insulin secretory response -- once adjusted for glucose levels -- is only associated with the beneficial metabolic effects. Not only does a robust post-challenge insulin secretory response not indicate adverse cardiometabolic health, but it predicts favourable metabolic function in the years to come."

Insulin's role
Dr. Retnakaran hopes their findings will reshape how medical professionals and the public view insulin's role in metabolism and weight management. —IANS

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V Manohar, S/o Sri M Venkatesh, aged about 40 years, R/a: 3rd Cross, Vinayaka Nagar, Nayandhalli, Bangalore- 560059. I, the resident, hereby declare that: Date- 05.05.23, Time- 11.20 AM, Place- Nayandahalli, the title deed (Hakkupatra) Survey No. - 99/ Plot No. - 79 obtained from Hanumayya has been lost. Accordingly, the copy of the said claim deed will be lost on Illustrative Date: 05.10.23. A complaint has been filed in the concerned police station regarding this rate. If you get the copy of the letter, please let me know. Vide affidavit dated: 29.11.23. Sworn before notary M Devaraja, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mohammed Saqlain Jeelani, S/o Mohammed Jeelani Athar and Ume Sadiyya, r/at No. 27/3, Old Dispensary Road, Kalasipalyam, Bangalore 560002 have changed my name to Mohammed Saqllain Jeelani vide affidavit dt. 14.12.2023 sworn before Notary L Shankaranarayana, Bangalore.

I Seema Praveen Kulkarni, w/o Praveen Kulkarni, Doddakanelli, Bangalore-35 have changed my name from Seema Kulkarni to Seema Praveen Kulkarni for all future purposes.

I Adiveppa Laxmeshwar s/o Mahadevappa R/o #179/1, 1st Floor, 6th Cross, HMT Layout, Nagasandra Post, B'luru-560073 have changed my name to Adiveppa Mahadevappa Laxmeshwar for all Purposes.

I, Mohammad Saad S/o, Faheema Thaj R/o Ward No 8 S Kariyappa Road Khalak Nager Kanakapura Ramanagar 562117 have change

I, Shyam Singh S/o Bindeshwar Kumar Singh R/o No. 147, Muneshwara Layout 2nd Main, Kodichikkanahalli Bommanahalli Bangalore South, Bangalore 560068 have changed my name as Shyam to Shyam Singh vide affidavit No IN-KA69729703018278V dated 14.12.2023.

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Female foeticide: Four held; hospital sealed

Raid reveals female foetus in dustbin at hospital in Bengaluru Rural; doctor & nurses among those held

A private hospital in Bengaluru Rural was sealed and four of its employees were detained after a foetus was found inside a dustbin of its premises, police said on Thursday.

Dr Sreenivasa, two nurses, a housekeeper, and a lab technician from SPG Hospital and Diagnostic Centre have been arrested. The nurses charged in the case were reportedly paid Rs 5,000 to 10,000 per month at the facility. The accused have been charged under the Prohibition of Sex Selection Act of 1994, the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act of 1971.

According to statistics, nearly 1,500 women attended the SPG hospital for scanning in the last year. According to reports, the hospital does not have information on 400 of these women who gave birth. There is currently no information on whether they went to other hospitals for delivery or had abortions.

On Wednesday night, health department authorities raided the SPG hospital after a female foetus was discovered in the hospital's dustbin. Thirumalashettyhalli police have opened an investigation against the hospital. The health officials alerted police and sealed the hospital, he said.

State Health Commissioner Randeep D said it is the first case booked for female foeticide through illegal abortion in Karnataka. The hospital owner has been absconding since the incident and teams have been formed to trace him, he added.

Prevention measures

The Karnataka government is taking measures to prevent female foeticides, including amending the concerned legislations, formulating a new policy and setting up a State-level task force, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao told the Legislative Assembly on Thursday. Along with creating awareness in the society, the government also wants to create a fear of law among people, against indulging in such heinous acts, he said.

A CID probe has already been ordered to probe such incidents, Rao said. Health Department officials have been directed to regularly conduct spot inspections, the Minister said but acknowledged that ineffective implementation of Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act is coming in the way of fully stopping cases of female foeticides and arresting the declining sex ratio in India.

The declining gender ratio indicates female foeticides are happening, he further said. "If you look at civil registration data, last year it was 947 females for 1,000 men, this year it is 929. It has come down."

He was replying to issues raised by a few MLAs including Leader of Opposition R Ashoka, expressing concern over the increasing cases of female foeticide in the state.

– BMB and Agencies

First 3D-printed post office without basic amenities

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

public toilet constructed near the BBMP Referral Hospital. "There is no toilet facility for the security guard posted at night at the post office," said the manager of a security company that outsourced security guard to the post office. The other major basic amenity lacking is parking space for those who visit the post office. The traffic police allowed parking of vehicles on the other side of Cambridge Road but prohibited parking of vehicles in front of the post office.

"Finding a place for parking our vehicles is a major concern for us. The space allowed for parking on the other side of the road is always full. Parking of vehicles is not allowed on the post office premises even though there is sufficient vacant space. Traffic police are penalising vehicles parked within 50 metres in front of the post office. It will be a great help for us if parking facilities are provided," said Krishna Murthy, a resident of Cambridge Layout.

Meanwhile, an employee working at the post office said the postal department has paid a specified amount to the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to supply Cauvery water to the post office.

"I expect the laying of water pipes will begin in a few days and water will be supplied within a week. There was a shortage of manpower but now it is sorted out by higher authorities. There is no toilet facility for security guards working nights. I hope higher authorities will look into the matter," the postal employee said on the condition of anonymity.

Audit of 29 stations on Green Line

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to conduct the audit by January 2024 and a report will be submitted to the BMRCL to implement the recommendations. The group has completed an audit of six metro stations along the Green Line.

"We have completed an audit of six metro stations - Yelachenahalli, Konanakunte Cross, Doddakallasandra, Vajarahalli, Talaghattapura and Silk Institute. We have observed that most issues pertain to footpath height, median pedestrian passage and parking for the metro stations. A common issue is that the footpath height is not maintained as per IRC guidelines. As per the guidelines, footpaths should be not more than 15 cm high; we have found that some footpaths are between 30-60 cm in height. Height poses difficulty for the elderly and disabled persons (in places with no accessibility ramps)," said Dimpu Chindappa, founder of The Mobility Agenda Foundation.

Another issue the audit would focus on is the safety of road-users around U-turns near metro stations. "To reduce fatal accidents, on average, the vehicle speeds should be limited to 20-30 km ph, but most vehicles are commuting at 40-50 km ph. There is a need to slow down the vehicles by implementing table top, or using rumble strips and paver blocks. We also want to look at the safety of motorists taking the U-turns, pedestrians using the median opening and cyclists turning towards the metro stations," she added.

She added that signages signifying speed limits should be erected and due effort needs to be taken to ensure its visibility during the day and night times.

Audit done at Konanakunte Cross, Doddakallasandra, Vajarahalli, Talaghattapura, Silk Institute, Yelachenahalli

The audit will also look at accessibility issues faced by people with disabilities: "Footpaths should have tactile pavings up to the metro building. There should not be broken footpath slabs in the pathway. To prevent the entry of vehicles, the median opening should be protected by bollards leaving a 900 mm gap between the bollards for passage of wheelchairs," she added.

In terms of multi-modal connectivity, the audit will look at pick up and drop points. "We will survey pick up and drop points — whether buses are stopping at bus bays, bus bay markings, provision to board buses from footpaths, and so on. It's also ideal for metro stations to provide parking on either side to prevent illegal parking. But it would be based on space availability," she added.

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Cop suspended for misusing recovered money

Police on Thursday suspended Police Inspector Shankar Nayak, attached to Bidadi police station, on charges of misusing recovered money amounting to Rs 75 lakh in a theft case. The suspension order was issued by IGP (Central Range) Ravikanthe Gowda. Allegations of the misuse of the recovered money had surfaced, and an FIR was filed at the Byatarayanapura police station. – IANS

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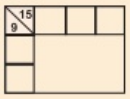
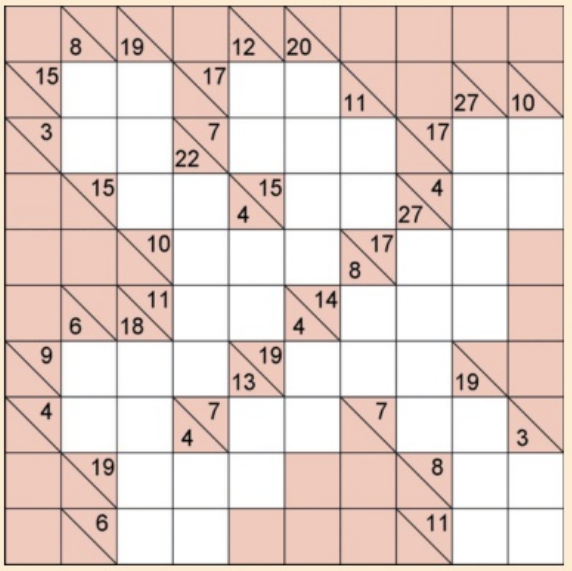
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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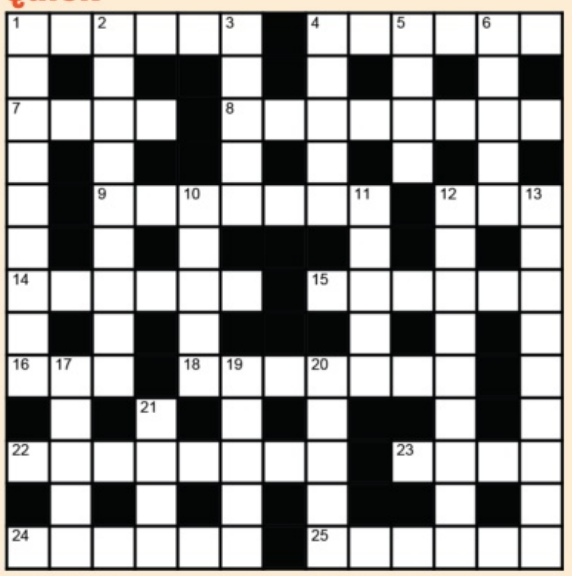


ACROSS

1 Eraser (6)
4 Meagre (6)
7 ____ and void? (4)
8 Set, became hard and stiff (8)
9 Badly brought up, uncouth? (3-4)
12 Crew Resource Mgmnt. (3)
14 New World Symphony composer (6)
15 Intimation (6)
16 Edible grain (3)
18 __ __ for : supported or sided with (5,2)
22 Thorough and complete (8)
23 Vogue competitor (4)
24 High structures; minars (6)
25 Squabble or quarrel (6)

DOWN

1 One who is seated close to the action (9)
2 Aggressive (9)
3 Treatment centre (abbrev.). (5)
4 Merry frolic (5)
5 Cuts down (4)
6 Defame (5)
10 Jumps or springs forcefully (5)
11 Cut and ____ : ready, inflexible? (5)
12 Multiplex on Banerghatta road (9)
13 Many-legged bug (9)
17 Lout, hooligan (slang) (5)
19 Shows off (5)
20 West Indies magic (5)
21 Overdrink (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: D EQUALS G

MT TMP SFM FBTVO FDVMD, EIJ FDVMD NZTOISJVBPUX VA ATQPJRVMD PUAP.

Linemaro

I like your motor control

Mindchow

No evidence will convince you of the truth of what you don't want

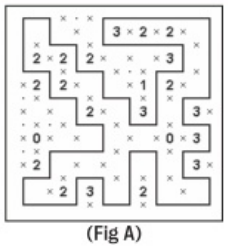
Joke of the day

My dad was a dustman. I didn't mind him coming to collect me from school, but it's just that you never knew which day he was going to come

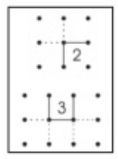
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

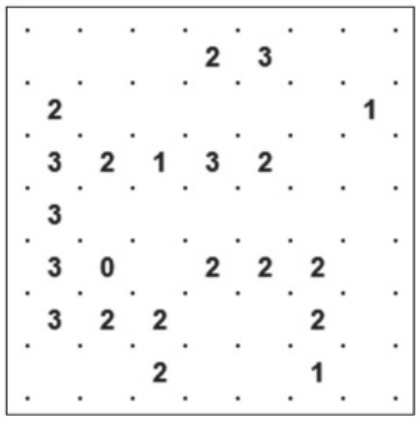


(Fig B) Not Allowed

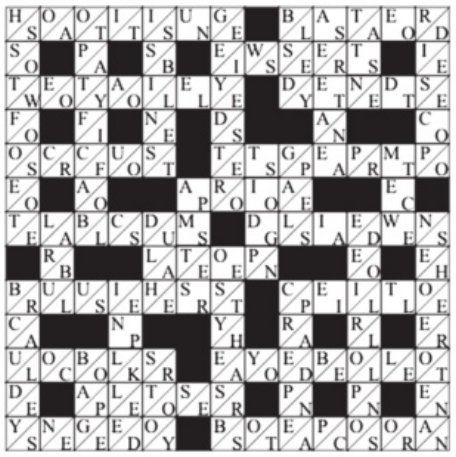
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



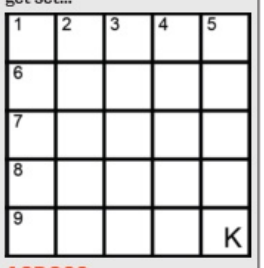
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Slush; 6 Tonal;
7 Al Gem; 8 A mail;
9 L Bank

DOWN

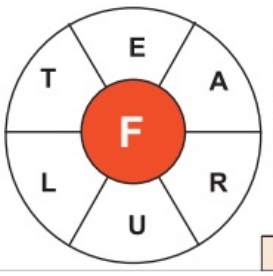
1 List B; 2 Halma;
3 A alum; 4 Lingo (3,2);
5 Snake

Mensapuzzle

Which number is the odd one out?

571219
461016
831114
461016
971613
781523

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

20 Average; 22 Good; 24 Outstanding

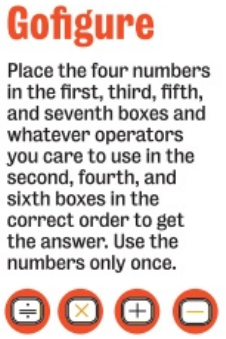
SudokuChallenge

					2		5	6
	2	3		6				7
7				1		9		
3			5			6	2	
			3		8			
	4	5			7			9
		2		3				5
5				8		4	6	
6	1		7					

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Golf bag is longer. 2. Mouth is open. 3. Bird is moved. 4. Cloud is different. 5. Leg is moved. 6. Bushes are different.

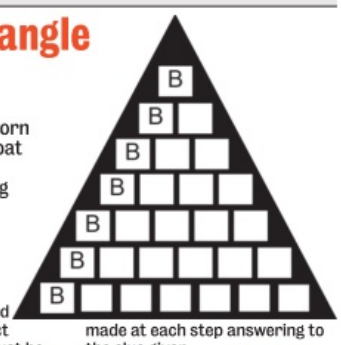
Riddler

These clues are for words that start with "re". The clues do not refer to the words themselves, but rather to the word that must be added to "re".

1. Re: someone aligned with you
2. Re: the place where an event is held
3. Re: change direction

Alpha triangle

1 Second letter
2 College degree
3 Sack
4 Blow one's own horn
5 Flat-bottomed boat
6 Mendicant
7 More loose-fitting



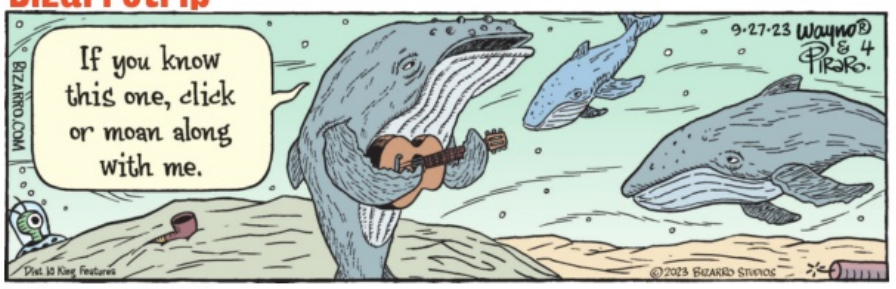
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

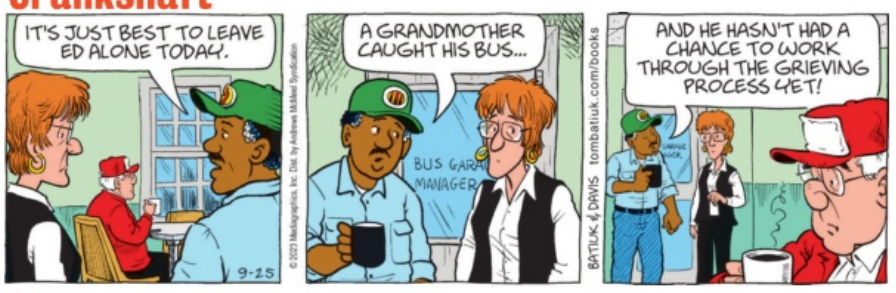


Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

TEAM RED STARTS THE RALLY WITH A KILLER SPIKE!
SPORTALK
MRS. CHARLOTTE'S MOM A.K.A. JACKIE A.K.A. "THE BEAST" IS DEFINITELY ONE TO WATCH!
BOOM! CRACK!
BUT TEAM BLUE'S DEFENSE IS UNREAL. MRS. KAT'S MOM A.K.A. SKY A.K.A. "THE WALL" ISN'T MAKING IT EASY FOR TEAM RED!
THIS GAME IS AS INTENSE AS THIS WEATHER!

Crankshaft


IT'S JUST BEST TO LEAVE ED ALONE TODAY.
A GRANDMOTHER CAUGHT HIS BUS...
BUS GARAGE MANAGER
AND HE HASN'T HAD A CHANCE TO WORK THROUGH THE GRIEVING PROCESS YET!
9-25

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, negative moon influence may upset you. You might experience dissatisfaction and struggle with fulfilling your responsibilities. Investments may result in some losses. Exercise caution when signing documents. Concerns about the health of elders may trouble you. If you're planning to reconstruct your house, it's advisable to postpone renovations for a while.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, your vital force appears strong, aiding you in completing challenging projects easily. A work-related trip may expand your network. Helping someone in need could enhance your social status. Disputes with siblings may be resolved, improving your relationship with them.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be engaged in a family get-together, displaying politeness and enhancing your image among relatives and friends. Spending on artefacts and other items can boost your social status. Good news from a close relative may brighten your day.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, blessings from elders may bring patience and a regained focus, contributing to your goal achievement. Success is foreseen in both business and domestic life. Achieving a balance between expenditures and savings could positively impact your financial situation.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, dissatisfaction and a feeling of laziness may affect your project's progress. Lovebirds are advised to avoid major decisions regarding marriage. Job seekers should focus on preparation for interviews.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, your internal strength may bring happiness and short-term gains from investments. Building a good rapport with your boss could lead to promotions. Your prestige in society may rise, and work-related travel is likely.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, the moon's blessing may bring high positions at work after your hard efforts. Improved performance and interactions with influential individuals may guide you towards life improvement. Managing domestic issues well can enhance harmony at home.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel happier, planning a visit to a religious place for inner strength. Charitable acts and potential overseas travel for education or work are indicated. Couples may find suitable matches, and singles might discover soulmates.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may experience solitude and engage in self-analysis. Changes in your position or surroundings are possible. Patience may be tested, and arrogance could impact your personal life. Adventure tours are advised against.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, the positive influence of the moon may create a favourable atmosphere. Creativity is heightened, prompting you to renovate your home. Partnership disputes may find resolutions, and long-distance work-related travel is anticipated. Strong bonding with your spouse will bring harmony to your domestic life.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, your best performance is expected at the office. Good rapport with your boss may lead to new responsibilities and promotions. Health issues may improve, and disputes with siblings may be resolved. Recovering stuck money is likely, and job seekers may secure new opportunities.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, focusing on children's education may keep you busy. Planning for their higher studies and potential good news about kids is indicated. Consider higher studies for career advancement, and attending workshops may contribute to job promotion. Singles are likely to find their soulmates.

KIDZONE

Rishika P, 13 Years, Indiranagar Cambridge School

Jahnavi H Bathia, 8 Years, Navkis Educational Centre

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= ((.8 ^2 *10) / (1/2))
= 1.6^10^2
= 32

RIDDLER
1. really,
2. revenue,
3. return

STRIKE OUT

H	O	O	T	I	N	G		B	A	T	E	D		
O	P	S		E	W	E	R	S		I				
O	T	A	L	L	Y		D	E	E	D	S			
T	A	L					E			N		C		
F	I		E		S						C			

QUICK

R	U	B	B	E	R		S	P	A	R	S	E		
	I		E		E		P	X	M					
S		I	L	L	B	R	E	D		C	R	M		
G		L		A		E		S		A				
N	U	L	L		H	A	R	D	E	N	E	D		

MENSA PUZZLE
97613: numbers are obtained by adding pairs of digits i.e. with 57219: 5 + 7 = 12; 7 + 12 = 19. To follow this same pattern 97613 would have to be 97623.

QUOTE UNCODE
No one can avoid aging, but aging productively is something else.

SUDOKU

1	8	4	9	7	2	3	5	6
9	2	3	4	6	5	8	1	7
7	5	6	8	1	3	9	4	2
3	7	9	5	4	1	6	2	8
2	6	1	3	9	8	5	7	4
8	4	5	6	2	7	1	3	9
4	9	2	1	3	6	7	8	5
5	3	7	2	8	9	4	6	1
6	1	8	7	5	4	2	9	3

ALPHA TRIANGLE
8, BA, Bag,
Brag, Barge,
Beggar,
Bagglier.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 + 4 + 3 + 7 = 21
Medium
9 x 5 - 9 + 4 = 40
Hard
8 x 6 / 3 + 6 = 22

LOOP

KAKURO

FAST FIVE

S	H	U	L	S
T	A	L	O	N
I	M	A	G	E
L	A	M	I	A
B	L	A	N	K

BULL'S EYE
after, artful, earful,
father, fare, fate, fault,
fear, feat, felt, feral,
flare, flat, flea, flue, furl,
flute, fret, fuel, furl, leaf,
left, raft, TEARFUL,

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Greta Gerwig to head Cannes jury —
Director Greta Gerwig, who set the box-office on fire with her film 'Barbie', will preside over the jury of the 2024 Cannes Film Festival

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

About Mandya

Many Kannada movies were made about Mandya and the lifestyle of people in the region. Rebel Star late Ambareesh hails from Mandya and is known as Mandyada Gandu among his fans. Now writer and director V Srikanth has come out with a movie - Mandya Haida - a story of a young man, who not only has to fight for his survival but also for love. The title song of the film - Kaaverammana madilal haadi beladavne - was released recently.

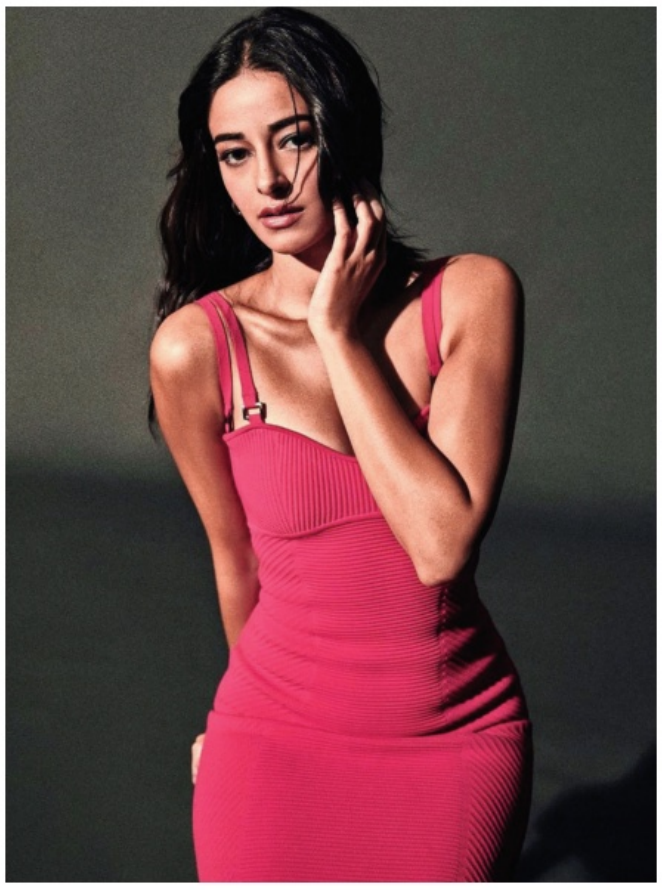
It is said the shooting of the movie is completed. Abhay Chandrasekhar and Bhoomika are the lead pair. It is the second movie for Abhay who made his debut in Sandalwood with Manasagide. His father Chandrasekhar is bankrolling this movie under Thejas Creations banner while V Srikanth has written the script and screenplay apart from handling the megaphone.

Producer Chandrasekhar told reporters Mandya Haida is the fifth movie being bankrolled under the Thejas Creations banner. "Most of the story happens in and around Mandya and around 10 per cent of the story happens in Bengaluru. The movie has 15 comedians and five songs that were composed by music director Surendranath," said Chandrasekhar.

Director Srikanth said the movie is a family entertainer that showcases the lifestyle of people in Mandya region. "I am very happy to have this wonderful and dedicated team for my debut movie," he said. Abhay plays the role of Shiv, a youth from Mandya, in the movie.

Long road ahead

Ananya Panday on her journey in the field of acting



Actor Ananya Panday on Wednesday said she fell in love with the process of developing a character after working on her 2022 modern relationship drama 'Gehraiyaan'. Daughter of actor Chunky Panday and costume designer Bhavana Pandey, Ananya made her film debut with 2019's rom-com 'Student of the Year 2'.

The 'Dream Girl 2' actor said she realised she had a long journey ahead after she saw herself on the big screen for the first time.

"I was actually a student when I did 'Student of the Year 2'. I was 18, just out of school. I just wanted to be a heroine, sing and dance, and look beautiful. I was just having fun in my first film. When I saw myself on the big screen, I realised I have a lot to learn and a long way to go.

"Luckily, I received a lot of love and acceptance from the audience. That has motivated me in my journey so far. My film 'Gehraiyaan', I think that changed everything for me. That actually made me an actor somewhere. I fell in love with the process of character development. Since then, there has been no looking back for me," Ananya said during a session on the first day of Agenda AajTak 2023 here.

The 25-year-old also said she is a "hopeless romantic" and that she would opt for a love marriage when time comes. "The benchmark for love is very high for me because of the relationship my parents share. Their relationship is based on love, respect and trust. I don't think anything less than that will be ok for me. Love makes the world go around. Love is very important, it keeps you grounded. It makes you happy, I love love," she added.

—ETimes

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